

CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims.

1. (previously presented) A method comprising:

receiving wagers from players playing paid games on a plurality of eligible gaming devices;

detecting a bonus round initiation signal for all the eligible gaming devices;

enabling the players to simultaneously play a plurality of free bonus games on the plurality of eligible gaming devices as a result of the bonus round initiation signal;

determining a base award to at least a winning player of the bonus games based on a certain outcome of the bonus games played;

multiplying the base award by a multiplier to obtain a multiplied award, wherein the multiplier is based on a number of players playing the bonus games; and

granting the multiplied award to at least the winning player of the bonus games.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the multiplier is a fraction of the number of players playing the bonus games.

6. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the multiplier equals the number of players.

7. (currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving wagers from players playing paid games on a plurality of eligible gaming devices;

detecting a bonus round initiation signal for all the eligible gaming devices;

enabling the players to simultaneously play a plurality of bonus games on the plurality of eligible gaming devices as a result of the bonus round initiation signal;

determining a base award to at least one or more players of the bonus games based on a certain outcome of the bonus games played, the players being ranked at ~~and~~ an end of the bonus round relative to one another;

multiplying the base award by a multiplier to obtain a multiplied award; and

granting the multiplied award to a plurality of players of the bonus games,

wherein the multiplier is based on a player's ranking after the bonus round.

8. (cancelled)

9 (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein determining a base award is also based on a player's ranking at the end of the bonus round.

13. (original) The method of Claim 12 wherein the player's ranking is based on total awards accumulated by the player during the bonus round.

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein determining a base award comprises determining a base award to the player based on displays of symbols across one or more paylines during the bonus games.

17. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein determining a base award comprises granting a jackpot, a portion of a jackpot, a fixed award, a progressive award, or a mystery award to the player.

18- 27. (cancelled)